



THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas

September 2026

We glorify God by receiving the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and sharing that salvation through word and deed with those in our midst, in our community, and throughout the world.

Social media does not bear the final blame for false testimony

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

If you exclude email and texts from your definition of social media, then you can say that I personally do not use social media, though Pilgrim has both a Facebook presence and a YouTube presence that other people maintain. Social media certainly can be, as Google's AI Overview indicates, good for connecting friends, building communities, spreading important news, and helping businesses and other organizations grow. At the same time, however, social media can spread false information and negatively impact people's mental health, that of adolescents and others. Of course, disagreeing somewhat with the father of media studies Marshall McLuhan, who wrote that "the media is the message", we could say that the media themselves are neutral and that they are subject to the positive or negative uses to which they are put. For example, false testimony goes back long before even Myspace, and God used a different form of "social media", if you will, in order to spread His Commandment against false testimony and to build the community of His people of Israel in the Old Testament and the Church in the New Testament.

You may know God's Commandment against false testimony—we usually number it as the Eighth Commandment—as "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor". The current version of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* asks, "What does this mean?" and then answers, "We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way." The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's 2018 edition of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* mentions social media, for example, answering question #85, "What are some ways in which people's reputations are damaged or destroyed in our society?" by saying, "We may damage or destroy people's reputations when we ridicule them, gossip about them, label and demean them because of a particular trait or characteristic, or

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bully them in person or on social media by taunting them, isolating them, or inciting others against them.

In the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther's *Large Catechism*, intended to elaborate on the teaching of his *Small Catechism*, the Eighth Commandment is applied to public courts of justice (that judges and witnesses should be upright and fearless regardless of the consequences), to spiritual jurisdiction or administration (that godly preachers and Christians are called heretics and that the Word of God undergoes persecution and blasphemy), and to all people who are forbidden all sins of the tongue. In that last application, Luther notes the following: that those without the right to judge should not speak evil (truth is not necessarily a defense, as it depends on one's vocation), that some have the right to judge and reprove (only to them should the matter be reported and by them should action be taken), that others act for their neighbor's improvement (approaching a brother or sister in Christ when he or she sins against you), and that public sins are another matter.

As I noted in my recent Pastor's Report for the July 26 turned August 23 Council Meeting, I certainly love all of our members and forgive their sins against me, and I call all of our members to forgive the sins of their brothers and sisters in Christ against me and against them. Individuals should reconcile with individuals (before approaching the altar [Matthew 5:23-26]), and concerns about the congregation should be addressed to those with callings to hear those concerns according to their offices, whether Pastor, Elder, or President. As just noted regarding the Eighth Commandment, testimony that is factually true is morally false when that testimony is given to someone who does not have a calling to hear the testimony. No one, regardless of their past or present occupation, should be listening to others for the sake of "letting them vent" or any such thing but should be refusing to listen and directing others to speak to those who have vocational responsibility for the congregation, namely, Pilgrim's called Pastor, elected Elders, and acting President.

May God the Holy Spirit work in us all both sorrow over our sins in this and every other regard and faith that trusts God the Father to forgive our sins for the sake of God the Son, crucified and resurrected, and may that forgiveness lead us to reconcile with one another so that we live not only in God's forgiveness of sins but also in one another's forgiveness.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Chr. 29:10-13
Job 31-33
- Psalm 86
Job 34-36
- Psalm 87
Job 37-39
- Psalm 88
Job 40-42
- Psalm 89
Proverbs 1-3
- Psalm 90
Proverbs 4-7
- Psalm 91
Proverbs 8-10
- Psalm 92
Proverbs 11-13
- Psalm 93
Proverbs 14-16
- Psalm 94
Proverbs 17-19
- Psalm 95
Proverbs 20-22
- Psalm 96
Proverbs 23-25
- Psalm 97
Proverbs 26-28
- Psalm 98
Proverbs 29-31
- Psalm 99
Ecclesiastes 1-3
- Psalm 100
Ecclesiastes 4-6
- Psalm 101
Ecclesiastes 7-9
- Psalm 102
Ecclesiastes 10-12
- Psalm 103
Song of Solomon 1-4
- Psalm 104
Song of Solomon 5-8
- Psalm 105
Jeremiah 1-3
- Psalm 106
Jeremiah 4-6
- Psalm 107
Jeremiah 7-9
- Psalm 108
Jeremiah 10-12
- Psalm 109
Jeremiah 13-15
- Psalm 110
Jeremiah 16-18
- Psalm 111
Jeremiah 19-22
- Psalm 112
Jeremiah 23-25
- Psalm 113
Jeremiah 26-28
- 1 Chr. 29:10-13
Jeremiah 29-31

SEPTEMBER 2026



Texas District Church Extension Fund
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Investment	Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note ¹	4.000%	4.06%	3.000%	3.03%
Three Year Note ¹	3.750%	3.80%	3.250%	3.29%
Five Year Note ¹	3.850%	3.91%	3.500%	3.55%
Jumbo Investment ¹	4.150%	4.22%		
\$100,000 minimum, 18 month term				
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%
Rainy Day Fund			1.250%	1.26%
Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate				
Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund			3.500%	3.56%

All individual Texas District CEF investments (FLEX, fixed and floating rate notes) may be included in a person's IRA portfolio, through our custodian GoldStar Trust Company, www.texascef.org/ira.html (1) Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. (2) Rates subject to change. Rates reviewed monthly. Texas District Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, Texas CEF investments are not SIPC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by Texas CEF's Offering Circular.



September 2026

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
www.pilgrimlc.org
 903-984-4333

Pastor's Regular Study Hours
 Tuesday 5:00-8:00 PM
 Wednesday-Friday 9:00 AM-Noon
 Saturday Noon-3:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Elder on Duty: Carl Gardner (Back-up: Remo Gualtieri)		1 4:00 PM Catechesis	2 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	3 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM DFW Study Group 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	4	5 (Willows Services are suspended)
	6 15 TH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service "The 15-2 Folk" Gathering	7	8 Rev. Robert Shockley (B)	9	10	12
Pastor Galler is on vacation after the Divine Service 9/3 through midday 9/15. An Elder will monitor the Church Phone.						
13 16 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	14 Clay Ellis (B) Link LeBlanc (B)	15 4:00 PM Catechesis Emmalee Knight (B)	16 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	17 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	18	19
Pastor Galler continues his vacation.						
20 17 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Mary/Martha Society Gathering	21 Mike Carter (B)	22 4:00 PM Catechesis Linda Traylor (B)	23 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Hazel Ford (B)	24 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit Meeting 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis Melody Ford (B)	25	26
27 18 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Council Meets as Budget Comm.	28	29 ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS 4:00 PM Catechesis 6:00 CAPA Meeting	30 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study M/M Uhles (A)			

All angels are ministering spirits, sent out to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation.
 (Confer Hebrews 1:14 ESV)

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713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

The Pilgrimage is a monthly newsletter for the members and friends of



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